

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 CCO-00 /009 W

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FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9382

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 3058

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AF ONLY

AF/C BLODGETT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, ACOM, CM

SUBJECT: CAMEROON MILITARY EQUIPMENT LIST AND MEETING EBOUA ON
WATTS

REF: (A) STATE 205524 (B) STATE 202872 (C) STATE 193355

(D) YAOUNDE 3046

1. UNDER COVER LETTER DATED 18 AUGUST, SEC GEN EBOUA SENT
FOLLOWING LIST MILITARY EQUIPMENT IN ORDER PRIORITY FOR
CONSIDERATION USG AID GURC:

A. TWENTY THOUSAND M16 RIFLES;

B. SIX FIGHTER (UNSPECIFIED) AIRCRAFT;

C. RADIOS: FIFTY AN/GRC/106 A, TWO HUNDRED FIFTY AN/PRC 70;

D. SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT: TWO SIGNALS STATIONS ("SEMAPHORE"
COULD BE RADAR), FOUR COASTAL BATTERIES OF SIX 100 MM GUNS EACH;

E. VEHICLES: ONE HUNDRED M 151 A2 JEEPS; ONE HUNDRED M 35 AP
TRUCKS;

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F. ROAD BUILDING MATERIAL: TEN MODEL D8K CATERPILLAR

BULLDOZERS, SIX MODEL 621 B CATERPILLAR ROADSCRAPERS,
FOUR MODEL 146 CATERPILLAR ROADGRADERS, FOUR MODEL 815 B
CATERPILLAR COMPACTERS AND UNSPECIFIED NUMBER (PROBABLY
FOUR) MODEL 966 C CATERPILLAR SHOVELS; AND

G. UNSPECIFIED NUMBER 20 MM, 90, MM CANONS AND 30MM AND 50 MM
MACHINEGUNS/ FOR ARMoured COMMAND CARS.

2. COMMENT: BELIEVE THIS LIST HAS BEEN DRAWN UP WITHOUT
REFERENCE FRENCH MILITARY ADVISORS AND MAY EVEN NOT HAVE BEEN
FULLY STAFFED CAMEROONIAN MILITARY, AS CIVILIANS MIGHT NOT
WISH WHET MILITARY APPETITE UNTIL THEY FIRST HAVE SOME
POSITIVE INDICATION WHAT EQUIPMENT WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE.
WHILE ADMITTEDLY IMPRECISE, BELIEVE LIST SERIOUS ATTEMPT
GURC IDENTIFY THEIR PERCEIVED DEFICIENCIES, WITH MIX
COMBAT AND NON-COMBAT EQUIPMENT TO TEST WHERE WE WILL
ESTABLISH PARAMETERS. THEY MAY ALSO BE AWARE OUR PAST
RELUCTANCE FURNISH M-16 AND FIGHTER AIRCRAFT AFRICA.
ALSO BELIEVE REQUEST M 16 RIFLES, FIGHTER AIRCRAFT AND
SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT INDICATES AHIDJO WISHES "GO AMERICAN"
FUTURE MILITARY EQUIPMENT NEEDS, OTHERWISE HE WOULD NOT
MAKE ARMY, GENDARNES AND AIR FORCE DEPENDENT US SUPPLY AND
RESUPPLY SOURCES. FINALLY, ITEMS E THROUGH F ARE ALREADY
BEING PROCURED US SOURCES THROUGH COMMERCIAL ARRANGEMENTS
NAPCO, WHICH ALSO FURNISHED COMMAND CARS WITHOUT ARMAMENTS
REQUESTED G.

3. PROPOSED PRECEDURE: I INTEND REQUEST MEETING
EBOUA SOONEST IN ORDER CLARIFY LISTED EQUIPMENT, PARTICULARLY
WITH RESPECT PARA 1 REFTEL A AND SPECIFICS OF ITEMS
B, D, G, AND LAST ITEM F. REQUEST FOR WATTS WILL ME MADE,
AND, DEPENDING ON TENOR RESPONSE, WOULD HOPE THAT AS
EVIDENCE OUR DESIRE BE HELPFUL IN AREA WHERE GURC MIGHT NEED
SOME ADVICE (EBOUA FORMER PDG CAMAIR) WOULD LIKE MAKE OFFER
OUTLINED REFTEL D. VARIOUS CAVEATS MENTIONED REFTELS A-C
WILL BE FOLLOWED, BUT WOULD LIKE BE IN POSITION OFFER
SOMETHING VOLUNTARILY WHICH EBOUA WOULD APPRECIATE SIGNIFICANCE
AS EVIDENCE OUR GOOD FAITH IN ORDER, HOPEFULLY, CREATE
FAVORABLE CLIMATE CONDUCIVE TIMELY CONSIDERATION WATTS
REQUEST.

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4. ACTION REQUESTED: APPRECIATE SOONEST ANY ADDITIONAL
CLARIFICATIONS DEPT MAY WISH RAISE EBOUA AS RESULT RECEIPT
THIS LIST AND COMMENTS PROPOSED PROCEDURE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY EQUIPMENT, TELECOMMUNICATION, REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976YAOUND03058
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760319-1337
From: YAOUNDE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760832/aaaabbhm.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 76 STATE 205524, 76 STATE 202872, 76 STATE 193355, 76 YAOUNDE 3046
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <23 JUN 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CAMEROON MILITARY EQUIPMENT LIST AND MEETING EBOUA ON WATTS
TAGS: MASS, ACOM, ETEL, CM
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006